

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

1. (Currently Amended): A telephone terminal equipment interface circuit comprising:  
  
a diode bridge for rectifying line current supplied from a subscriber line and supplying the current to a call transmission/reception circuit; ~~and~~  
  
a forward biasing circuit for supplying forward biased voltage to said diode bridge[,]; and  
  
a power supply circuit supplying power to said forward biasing circuit;  
  
wherein said forward biasing circuit is connected in series in relation to said diode bridge.
2. (Original): The telephone terminal equipment interface circuit according to claim 1 wherein said forward biasing circuit causes said diode bridge to operate in an activated state by supplying said forward biased voltage to said diode bridge.
3. (Canceled).
4. (Previously Presented): The telephone terminal equipment interface circuit according to claim 2 wherein current-voltage characteristics of said telephone terminal equipment interface circuit are such that both said current and said voltage increase in proportion from a starting point.

5. (Original): The telephone terminal equipment interface circuit according to claim

4 wherein said forward biasing circuit is a diode element biased in a forward direction.